

French Delegation Bolts NATO Meeting

The French delegation stalked out of a NATO meeting today in Paris in protest against Anglo-U. S. arms shipments to Tunisia and set off the gravest crisis in the eight-year history of the Atlantic organization.

There were these other developments:

- Two British planes landed at Tunis with sub-machine guns and ammunition for the Tunisian army, with a USAF plane due to fly to Tunis later today with American weapons from West Germany.

- The NATO crisis threatened to bring down the newly created French government of Felix Gaillard.

- The official Soviet news agency, Tass, said the U. S. "is getting ready to seize North Africa."

EMERGENCY PARLEY

France called for an emergency meeting of the NATO foreign ministers to consider the situation, and a meeting of the permanent council of NATO was summoned for tomorrow at its Paris headquarters to lay the foundation for such a meeting.

Two British planes landed at Tunis Airport this morning with sub-machineguns and ammunition for the 3000-man Tunisian army. U. S. Embassy sources in Tunis said an American transport plane would fly in arms this afternoon from Germany — M-1 rifles and ammunition.

Britain and the U. S. said they were acting to beat Russia to the punch, but the arms shipments over French protest gravely strained Atlantic solidarity and threatened to bring down the government of Premier Felix Gaillard.

The sudden British-American decision to arm Tunisia caught the NATO meeting by surprise.

Sen. Theodore Francis Green (R., R. I.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "This is not the proper way of treating an ally. I firmly believe that France should have been consulted."

'STUPID'

Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D., O.) termed the Washington decision a "stupid and sterile policy."

M. Gaillard himself was



FELIX GAILLARD

In peril

going before the National Assembly today to explain the French position and try to save his government. He was expected to seek a vote of confidence tomorrow or Monday.

The French were angrier at their Anglo-U. S. allies than at any time in years. They believe the Tunisian arms would be used to help the Algerian rebels, and fiery Gaullist party leader Michele Debre said French public opinion would not permit French soldiers to "be killed by allied bullets."

KREMLIN MOVES

The Kremlin moved to cash in on the crisis that has rocked the Atlantic alliance. It said the United States was trying to make Tunisia dependent on it in a move to grab North Africa for itself.

This played on French fears—expressed in the Senate last night by M. Debre —That an Anglo-American "consortium" was plotting to take over France's Sahara riches. He has suggested France pull out of NATO for good, and the issue is to be debated on Tuesday.

Pierre Schneiter, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, led today's walkout from the NATO meeting of members of the parliaments of various member governments. A formal statement said France felt the term Atlantic solidarity had no meaning under the circumstances.

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